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From: O'Brien, Elisabeth (DPH)
Sent: Friday, July 11, 2008 1:54 PM
To: Salemi, Charles (DPH)
Cc: Nassif, Julianne (DPH)
Subject: More Class E requests!

Chuck

Yesterday a fax was received in the evidence office yet again requesting a "full chemical analysis" of two class E submissions. When I reviewed the drug receipt I noticed that this entire case(same defendant) consisted of five lab numbers, all pharmaceuticals. Three out of the five lab numbers had already been chemically analyzed, with the findings of clonazepam (Class C), lorazepam (Class C) and oxcarbazepine (Class E). The other two lab numbers were identified by appearance and labeling as clonidine and promethazine(Class E's).

Since this was all the same defendant it seems an extraordinary effort on the laboratory's behalf to further analyze the remaining two cases identified by appearance and labeling, as they are Class E's. Appearance and Labeling identification, or a visual inspection of tablets with checks against known references has been historically sufficient for the court's purposes and is commonly accepted practice in other states. The several hours of chemist time that will be devoted to this further analysis is difficult to justify. We already are chemically analyzing Class C pharmaceuticals, I hope the trend of requesting chemical analysis of Class E's can be mitigated as our current staffing levels cannot keep up with the tremendous increase in submissions as it is.

Let me know your thoughts.

Thanks,
Betsy